

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8096

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, AO

SUBJECT: PRAVDA PUTS U.S. IN SPOTLIGHT AS ANGOLAN VILLIAN

1. IN WEEK-END COVERAGE OF ANGOLA, THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS SHIFTED ITS SIGHTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO THE U.S. PRAVDA'S (DEC 21) INTERNATIONAL WEEK ACCORDS THE CIA THE SPOTLIGHT, AS THE COMMENTATOR HITS HARD AT THE AGENCY'S ALLEGED EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE NEW COUNTRY. THE AUTHOR, OLEG SKALKIN, REPLAYS A STATEMENT BY THE NEW YORK TIMES THAT ANGOLA ALREADY REPRESENTS "ONE OF THE LARGEST" SECRET OPERATIONS BY THE U.S., "IF ONE EXCLUDES INDO-CHINA". SKALKIN ALSO ATTACKS THE EFFORTS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA, AND IMPLIES THE U.S. IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WORKING HAND IN HAND WITH THESE COUNTRIES. THE CHINESE

ARE ALSO AMONG SKALKIN'S BLACK HATS. THE CONCLUSION IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ARE ONLY DOING THEIR "INTERNATIONAL DUTY" BY FIRMLY SUPPORTING ANGOLA'S LEGITIMATE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM.

2. IN A TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING THE SENATE VOTE TO PROHIBIT FURTHER EXPENDITURES OF FUNDS IN ANGOLA, PRAVDA ALSO MENTIONS THE PRESIDENT'S DEC 19 STATEMENT ON SENATE VOTE, AND CLAIMS IT CONTAINS "UNFRIENDLY EXPRESSIONS" CONCERNING THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ANGOLAN POLICY (SEPTTEL).

3. PRAVDA (DEC 22) REPLAYS PRESS REACTION FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES SUCH AS GHANA, TANZANIA, AND INDIA, WITH PREDICTABLE EMPHASES. THE SAME PIECE CONTAINS A TASS REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED U.S. SECRET OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA AND THAT SENATOR KENNEDY PUTS U.S. EXPENDITURES TO DATE AT ABOUT \$60 MILLION.

4. COMMENT. THE SOVIETS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO EXPLOIT THE WEALTH OF ANGOLA MATERIAL APPEARING IN THE U.S. PRESS, BUT DIRECT REFERENCE TO THE PRESIDENT AND PUTTING THE U.S. AHEAD OF SOUTH AFRICA AS THE NUMBER ONE VILLIAN CLEARLY RESPOND TO OUR VARIOUS HIGH-LEVEL COMPLAINTS ABOUT SOVIET CONDUCT. AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, THE SOVIETS ARE HANGING TOUGH.
STOESSEL

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